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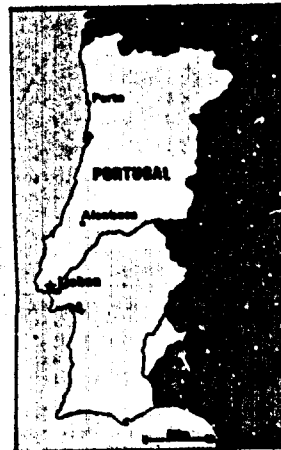
TCS 623/75

Portuguese Communists' Drive Stalled

Attacks In North Force Porto Rally Cancellation

The Communist counteroffensive that began last week when party leader Canelo exhorted party militants to return to areas in northern Portugal appears to have stalled.

The Communists have canceled the second rally of their campaign—scheduled for Porto last night—in view of "the



Portugal Faces Tough Decision On New Angolan Committees

The Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola announced yesterday that it will establish paramilitary people's defense committees in Luanda and make them part of its armed forces.

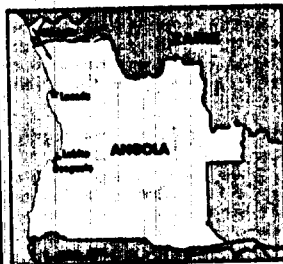
The committees will be composed primarily of the thousands of civilians in the Angolan capital who were armed by the Movement when the transitional government was in existence.

Coming on the heels of a declaration by Portuguese acting High Commissioner Macedo that he was assuming administrative control of the territory, the

Popular Movement's announcement will be seen as a move to force Lisbon to choose between recognizing the Movement as the only effective political organization in Angola or backing up its own claim to sovereignty by suppressing the committees.

Macedo will seek the advice of Lisbon before he responds. A delay in his response, however, will serve to tighten the Popular Movement's control over Luanda. The Movement will probably soon announce similar committees in other areas where it is militarily dominant, such as Cabinda.

The Popular Movement is trying to gain military dominance in Lobito and Benguela, where it has been fighting with the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola for a week. So far, the National Union has put up stiff opposition. It is being assisted by the third



current political situation. Their first effort, in Alcobaca, ran into stiff resistance.

The decision to call off the Porto rally was doubtless influenced by continuing attacks on party offices in the north. In a town near Porto last night, a party member was killed by gunfire from security forces. Even though the Communists have vowed to "take precautions" against the anti-Communists, party leaders have been made cautious by the growing tendency of internal security troops—especially in the north—to act on their own.

In the recent disorders, troops in three northern towns are reported to have

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Portugal . . .

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placed themselves on alert without notifying the military region headquarters. Troops in the north have been pressing for the removal of the regional commander, General Corvacho, considered to be a Communist sympathizer and an ally of Prime Minister Goncalves. According to a communique released yesterday by the northern regional headquarters, Corvacho has been temporarily relieved of his command.

Communist control of labor is also eroding. The party made a concerted ef-

fort to show its muscle by calling for a half-hour general strike yesterday, then modified the call by limiting it to the Lisbon area.

The impact of the strike was minimal. Its primary effect was to feed anti-Communist sentiment in Lisbon. The failure of the strike will be seen as another defeat for Prime Minister Goncalves.

Former president Spinoza, who is living in exile in Rio de Janeiro, has added his voice to the anti-Goncalves chorus. In an open letter to President Costa Gomes, Spinoza appealed for unity behind his "democratic movement for the liberation of Portugal." Costa Gomes, who released the document yesterday, criticized Spinoza, but did not condemn the letter.

In fact, the appeal from Spinoza may add force to the periodic warnings from Goncalves that Portugal is in danger of returning to fascism. This danger is of such an overriding concern for the members of the Armed Forces Movement that many will continue to hesitate to take action against Goncalves or, if he is finally ousted, they will seek to make sure that a new government does not provide an opening to the right.

Angola . . .

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nationalist group, the National Front for the Liberation of Angola, and has received fresh arms and ammunition from Zaire.

Whatever the Portuguese decide, the National Union and the National Front apparently recognize that they have run out of political options and have no choice but to fight. The Popular Movement's latest maneuver is likely to stiffen their resolve.

